

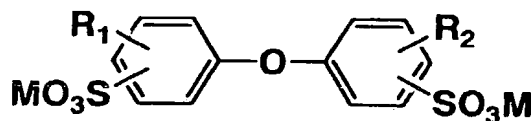
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing a lithographic printing plate, comprising:

exposing a photosensitive lithographic printing plate precursor having an image-forming layer containing an infrared absorption dye; and

developing the exposed photosensitive lithographic printing plate precursor with an alkali developer, in which the alkali developer includes an anionic surfactant containing a sulfonate group.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is an anionic surfactant represented by the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  are each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may be branched, and M represents a univalent alkali metal.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer comprises: at least one of an alkali silicate and a nonreducing sugar; and a base.

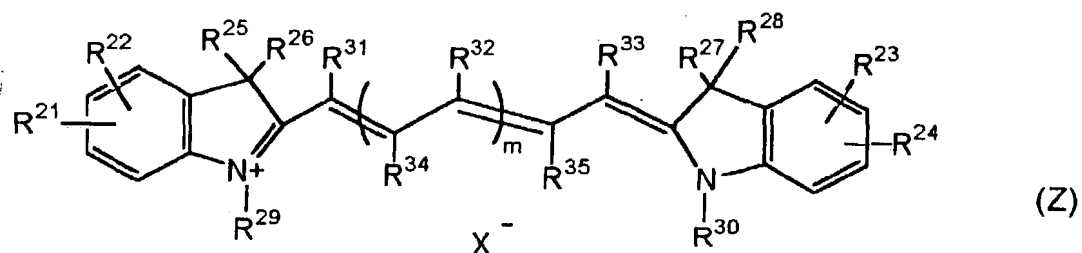
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer has a pH of 12.5 to 14.0.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali developer contains silicone oxide and an alkali oxide:  $M_2O$ , in which M represents an alkali metal or an ammonium group.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the mixing ratio of the silicon oxide to the alkali oxide:  $M_2O$  is 0.5 to 3.0.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorption dye includes at least one of a cyanine dye, a squalilium dye, a pyrylium salt and a nickel thiolate complex.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorption dye includes a compound represented by the formula (Z):



wherein  $R^{21}$  to  $R^{24}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group, an alkoxyl group, a cycloalkyl group or an aryl group, each of which may have a substituent group, and  $R^{21}$  and  $R^{22}$ , and  $R^{23}$  and  $R^{24}$  may combine with each other to form a ring structure;  $R^{25}$  to  $R^{30}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group;  $R^{31}$  to  $R^{33}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group,  $R^{32}$  may combine with  $R^{31}$  or  $R^{33}$  to form a ring structure, and, when  $m$  is more than 2, a plurality of  $R^{32}$ 's may combine with each other to form a ring structure;  $m$  represents an integer of from 1 to 8;  $R^{34}$  and  $R^{35}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which may have a substituent group,  $R^{34}$  may combine with  $R^{35}$  to form a ring structure, and, when  $m$  is more than 2, a plurality of  $R^{34}$ 's may combine with each other to form a ring structure;  $X^-$  represents an anion.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the image-forming layer contains the infrared absorption dye in an amount of 0.01 to 50 % by weight based on the total solid weight of the image-forming layer.